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October 3, 2013

Mr. David L. Skeen
Director, Japan Lessons Learned Project Directorate
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Relay Chatter Reviews for Seismic Hazard Screening

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Skeen:

As discussed during NRC public meetings on August 6 and 29, 2013, we propose the following clarification for the timing of relay chatter reviews associated with the Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 2.1 seismic hazard screening task.

On February 13, 2013, NRC endorsed the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) final draft Report No. 1025287, "Seismic Evaluation Guidance: Screening, Prioritization, and Implementation Details (SPID) for the Resolution of Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1: Seismic" [ML12319A074]. As explained in Section 3.3 of the SPID, seismic risk assessments performed as part of the Individual Plant Examination of External Events (IPEEE) for Severe Accident Vulnerabilities (Generic Letter 88-20, Supplement 4) may be used to screen plants from further review if certain criteria are met. The SPID specifically states that a detailed review of relay chatter must be performed in order to use an IPEEE focused scope margin assessment for screening.

We believe the relay chatter reviews can be performed most effectively after the new seismic hazards are developed and on a schedule that allows use of information from the High Frequency Confirmation test program described in Section 3.4 of the SPID. Therefore, we are recommending to the industry that the relay chatter reviews be completed on the same schedule as the High Frequency Confirmation as proposed in our letter dated April 9, 2013 [ML13101A379] and accepted in your response dated May 7, 2013 [ML13106A331].

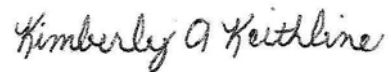
Mr. David L. Skeen

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly A. Keithline".

Kimberly A. Keithline

c: Mr. Nilesh C. Chokshi, NRO/DSEA, NRC